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AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 11 February 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter from His Excellency Mr. Zoran Lilić, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIĆ
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Letter dated 11 February 1994 from the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

At this critical juncture of the process of resolution of the crisis in the former Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I am prompted to draw your attention to the positions of my country on the most topical issues of this process.

We support the agreement on the solution of the civil war in former Bosnia and Herzegovina proposed by the European Union, within the framework of the Geneva negotiations, in the reaching of which the two Co-Chairmen of the Conference on Yugoslavia were also engaged. We consider it very important that the Serb and Croatian sides accepted this agreement. Now, it is indispensable that the agreement also be accepted by the leadership of the Bosnian Moslems, all the more so since it incorporates its original requests.

We also support the agreements on cease-fire and demilitarization of Sarajevo recently concluded by the Serb and Moslem sides, with the significant engagement and valuable contribution of UNPROFOR on the ground, i.e. of your personal envoy Mr. Akashi and General Rose. We trust that the basis has thus been created also for placing Sarajevo under the United Nations administrative control, being an important element in the global settlement of the crisis in former Bosnia and Herzegovina. We also believe that these agreements reached on the ground can encourage a speedier agreement concerning the crisis itself.

These agreements are all the more important because they were reached in the very grave atmosphere caused by, so far, the greatest tragedy of civilians at one of the Sarajevo markets, which seriously threatens to draw the conflicting parties even further apart, to divert the attention of the international public and to shift the efforts aimed at resolving the crisis from negotiations to even fiercer armed conflicts.

We are, therefore, even more concerned at the incongruous and inappropriate decision of the NATO Council to seek a solution by means of ultimatum and military force. It must be clear that such decisions urge continuation of war and that peace can be reached only by negotiations on a footing of equality. Such NATO decision constitutes an unauthorized usurpation of the political competencies of the United Nations Security Council by the most powerful military organization in the world. Like many other United Nations Member States, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is firm in its belief that only the United Nations is mandated to adopt such political decisions, particularly those related to the use of force in the resolution of any situation on the ground.

Particular concern is aroused by the fact that the NATO Council adopted such decision under the strong influence of uncorroborated assumptions that the Serb side is to blame for the tragedy at the Sarajevo market. United Nations representatives in Sarajevo were explicit in their official statements that it was not possible to establish which side was to blame for the tragedy. The

statements of the competent foreign and Yugoslav experts indicate that the Serb side did not and could not commit this criminal and tragic act.

As you are aware, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia most strongly condemned the recent abhorrent crime and the killing and wounding of a large number of civilians in Sarajevo, considering it a blow to the peace process and an attempt at peace, and has demanded an impartial investigation headed by United Nations representatives, with the participation of representatives of all sides involved in the Bosnian conflict. We believe that the world public has the right to know the whole truth about who caused so many human losses and why, and we expect that you personally will support such an investigation.

We consider that no decision, and particularly decisions on ultimatum in international relations, can be based on the alleged guilt, since any such decision would be a crime in itself. The international community and the world Organization in particular must not allow the recurrence of such a precedent. It is particularly unacceptable and perilous that any military organization, on the basis of its own assessment, takes over the political competencies which, according to the Charter of the United Nations, are vested in the organs of the world Organization.

In view of the above, I call on you, Mr. Secretary-General, to take all necessary measures in order that the United Nations Security Council regains all its usurped political rights in the resolution of the crisis in former Bosnia and Herzegovina. This would ensure a speedier and more successful negotiated peace process.

I would appreciate it, Excellency, if you informed the members of the Security Council of the contents of this letter.

Zoran LILIĆ